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LUNCH at SCHOOL



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution

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NO ONE likes to see a hungry child. Every-one wants a child to have enough of the right kinds of food to help him grow up to be a strong adult. A healthy child is a happy child.

Unfortunately not all children are getting enough of the foods they need. Sometimes it's because there just isn't enough money to buy the food. Sometimes it's because a working mother doesn't have time or isn't at home to prepare regular meals. Sometimes it's because the person in the home who prepares the meals doesn't know what foods a growing child needs. Whatever the reason may be, the school lunch is a systematic means of providing one-third to one-half of the child's daily nutritive needs 20 to 22 times a month.

The best investment a community can make is to see that its children are well fed. It's an investment in young people--the future of America.

THE WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION helps communities in every State to improve the nutrition of children by reimbursing the sponsor of the program for part of the cost of food for lunches served to children at school. The program is being administered through the Office of Distribution, one of the agencies of the War Food Administration, and can operate in the smallest rural school or the largest city school. The responsibility for organizing the program and seeing that it operates effectively rests on the community.

In addition to feeding children, the School Lunch Program has other values. The poor food habits of so many adults point to the need for nutrition education at an early age. The opportunities for using the school lunch as an educational tool are unlimited, not only for nutrition but for such subjects as quantity food preparation, accounting,

and business management. School authorities have recognized the value of integrating the school lunch into the total school program and the part it plays in developing a democratic way of living.

1. How does the community school-lunch program operate?

A group of people who wish to sponsor a school-lunch program but need financial aid to operate an adequate one apply to the WFA for help. If the application is approved, the WFA and the sponsoring group enter into an agreement setting forth the responsibilities of each. At the end of each month, the sponsor submits a report of operations and the WFA reimburses the sponsor for part of the food costs up to a stated maximum per meal, depending on the type of lunch served and the financial need of the school program.

2. Who may act as sponsor?

Usually, the local school board acts as sponsor. However, where the school board is unable to assume this responsibility any local civic nonprofit organization may enter into the agreement with the WFA. An individual may not act as sponsor.

3. What does the sponsor do?

The sponsor is legally responsible for seeing that the terms of the agreement are met; that is, that the necessary food is bought and properly stored; that the right amounts and kinds of food are served; that each child may have a lunch, regardless of his ability to pay; and that there is no discrimination between paying and nonpaying children. The sponsor must keep simple records on the operation of the program. These are submitted monthly to WFA as a basis for reimbursing the sponsor. To aid in preparing these reports, a daily record sheet listing the required data has been prepared for optional use by the sponsor.

4. What schools are eligible for assistance from WFA?

Any public or private school through the high school level is eligible to apply for Federal aid, provided the school is operated on a nonprofit basis. A small part of the Federal school-lunch funds has been set aside by law for use by child-care centers.

5. What are the lunch types and the maximum rates of reimbursement for them?

The rate of reimbursement is based on the cost of the food used in specified lunches. In no instance can the rate of reimbursement exceed the cost of food purchased and used. The maximum rates vary with the lunch type.

Type A (maximum reimbursement 9 cents).

This is a *complete* lunch, sufficient to provide one-third to one-half of the child's daily diet requirements. This Type A meal, which may be served hot or cold, as a plate or tray lunch, contains at least these five *musts*:

1. One-half pint of whole milk to drink.
2. Two ounces of meat, poultry, cheese, or fish, or one egg, or one-half cup of dry peas, beans, or soybeans, or 4 tablespoons of peanut butter.
3. Three-fourths of a cup of vegetables and/or fruit.
4. One or more slices of bread or muffins or other hot bread made of whole-grain cereal or enriched flour.
5. Two teaspoons of butter or fortified oleomargarine.

It is permissible to meet the protein requirement in item 2 by serving one-half the quantities of each of two proteins.

Type B (maximum reimbursement 6 cents).

This is an *incomplete* lunch suitable for schools which have limited cooking and serving facilities and where the meal may be supplemented by food brought from home. The Type B lunch, which may be served hot or cold, must contain at least:

1. Soup, stew, salad or other combination dish, plus one or more slices of bread or muffins or other hot bread made of whole-grain cereal or enriched flour, 1 teaspoon of butter or fortified oleo-margarine, and one-half pint of whole milk as a beverage.

The soup, stew, salad, or other dish should contain at least 1 ounce of meat, poultry, fish, or cheese, or one-half egg, or one-fourth cup of dry peas, beans, or soybeans, and one-half cup of vegetables and/or fruit.

or

2. Sandwich of whole-grain or enriched bread, containing 1 ounce of meat, poultry, fish, or cheese, or one-half egg, or 2 tablespoons of peanut butter and 1 teaspoon of butter or fortified oleo-margarine. With this must be served one-half cup of vegetables and/or fruit, and one-half pint of whole milk to drink.

Type C (maximum reimbursement 2 cents).

One-half pint of *fresh* whole milk as a beverage.

No meal for children can be considered complete unless milk is served. However, if fresh milk cannot be obtained, the application will still receive consideration. The maximum rate of reimbursement for meals served without milk is 2 cents less than the reimbursement for a comparable meal with milk.

6. For what foods may the sponsor claim reimbursement?

The sponsor may claim reimbursement for the purchase of any agricultural commodity that can be used to meet the lunch requirements. Each month the sponsor will receive a list of abundant foods. Sponsors will be expected to buy as much of these foods as can be efficiently and economically used in serving lunches to children. In addition, the WFA will, from time to time, make available to schools, without charge, foods that have been acquired as a result of its producer price-support activities. Schools can requisition as much or as little of these foods as they can properly store and consume.

7. How can other community groups help the sponsor?

The sponsor may set up a cooperative program, whereby other groups assume part of the responsibility for operating the lunch program. One group may furnish the necessary labor, either paid or volunteer; another group may furnish some home-produced food; and still another might furnish some of the necessary equipment. A successful school-lunch program is a cooperative community enterprise.

8. How may application for financial aid from the WFA be made?

Request an application from:

Office of Distribution
War Food Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

or

One of the regional offices at:
150 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.
Western Union Bldg., Atlanta 3, Ga.
5 South Wabash Ave., Chicago 3, Ill.
425 Wilson Bldg., Dallas 1, Tex.
821 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.